

Amendments to the Claims:

1-60. (canceled)

61. (canceled)

62. (canceled)

- ~~1~~ ⁶³. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
 - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.

~~2~~ ⁶⁴. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~63~~ ¹ comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523.

~~3~~ ⁶⁵. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~63~~ ¹ comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide.

66-67. (canceled)

~~4~~ ⁶⁸. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~63~~ ¹ comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.

~~7~~ ⁶⁹. (currently amended) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim ~~61~~ or ~~54~~ ⁵ fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

~~8~~ ⁷⁰. (previously presented) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim ~~69~~ ⁷, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

71-73. (canceled)

5 ~~74~~. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523; or
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.

6 ~~75~~. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide of Claim ⁵~~74~~ comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.